

ER 01-2936/a

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Mr. Robert R. Richardson

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[Redacted]
Dear Mr. Richardson:

Thank you for your letter of 12 April 1961, telling me about your interesting plans for regional strategy seminars for studying the Communist challenge, and inviting me to be included on your roster of seminar speakers.

I sincerely regret that I must decline your kind invitation. In view of my official position, I do not undertake public speaking engagements as a regular practice, except for a very occasional address. Unfortunately I cannot make an additional commitment at this time.

I nevertheless appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing me, and I wish you every success in your patriotic enterprise.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

O/DCI/SJGrogan:jmw (17 Apr 61)

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ROBERT R. RICHARDSON

STAT

April 12, 1961

Honorable Allen W. Dulles
 Director
 Central Intelligence Agency
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

As you doubtless know, a two week seminar for reserve officers is now being held every July at the National War College in Washington, D. C. The curriculum dwells on the Communist challenge and American strategy. The first such seminar was in July 1959, and the curriculum was largely the handiwork of the Foreign Policy Research Institute of the University of Pennsylvania.

A spontaneous by-product is the regional miniature version of the War College seminars. These were originally organized by one or more men from a city or section who attended the National War College. I believe some thirty-three of these have been held. Sites have been as widely separated as New York and California. Each one has sparked one or more others. Whereas the first ones were staged by men who had attended the National War College and who thereby had knowledge of some excellent speakers and films, this is decreasingly the case. Very often, the organizers are men whose chief asset is enthusiasm and a willingness to work. Usually, they know little or nothing about either the mechanics of staging a seminar or what its content should be in terms of speakers and films.

Several other businessmen here and I, who have ram-rodded two seminars, (Fort Benning, September 9 and 10, 1960, and Atlanta, March 10 and 11, 1961) are conscious of this shortcoming. We also fear that the selection of either "crackpot" or poor speakers and films might damage what has come to be a fast expanding "do it yourself" experiment in education.

It seems to us that one thing we can do to alleviate this problem is to set up here an information bureau to provide information on speakers, visual aids, and seminar mechanics. This unit would service the seven states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

The purpose of this letter is to ask you if you would be willing to be carried on our roster of speakers who can address regional strategy seminars. If you can serve, kindly record the following information in your reply: Biographical data; the particular area of either the Communist challenge or American strategy on which your background fits you to speak; any honoraria you might require; whether or not your organization (if governmental) is willing to cover your travel expenses.

Because we have not yet set up our clearinghouse unit in corporate form with an office, I will be in your debt for replying directly to my home address

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Yours very truly,

ROBERT R. RICHARDSON

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RRR/dc

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Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.